The George Miller film *Happy Feet II,* released on November 18, 2011, received mixed reviews and did less than expected at the box office.

On its opening weekend *Happy Feet II* earned 21.2 million, well under the predicted box office of 35-45 million. *Happy Feet* earned 41.5 million in its first weekend almost doubling the sequel. The film was produced in Dr. D studios in Sydney, Australia.

The new film stars Elijah Hood as Mumble, Pink as Gloria, Robin Williams as Lovelace and Ramon, Sofia Vergara as Carmen, Brad Pitt as Will the Krill, and Matt Damon as Bill the Krill.

“I really like the voice of Elijah Hood from watching The Lord of the Rings movies, so I might go see this too,” said sophomore Toby Cushing.

The plot focuses on Erik, the son of Mumble, and his struggles to fit into emperor-land. He doesn’t want to try dancing like most of the other penguins. After he embarrasses himself, he travels with his friends to adelie-land. They return to find emperor-land trapped behind an iceberg. The penguins must join together in dancing and song to free themselves and save the day.

Erik encounters a penguin named Sven who can fly! Erik learns much from him and Sven becomes his role model. The penguins soon discover greater forces working together in the land and all creatures from tiny krill to elephant seals come together to save the day.

Critics agree that the animation is outstanding but the plot is too disorganized for a great movie. New York Post Critic Kyle Smith said, “Happy Feet was one of the greatest and most original animated films, but the sequel can’t even decide what it’s about for the first 40 minutes.”

Reviews also suggest the movie lacks the charm of its predecessor. There are too many side stories detracting from the main plot. “I thought this movie was so cute!” said sophomore Hailey Davies. “I don’t care what the critics say, this movie was very good.”

Actress Pink has her own song, “Bridge of Light,” in this movie, which is also the theme song. Pink lends her vocals to Gloria after Brittany Murphy, the original Gloria, died from pneumonia on December 20, 2009. Pink’s song “Tell Me Something Good,” was featured in the first film.

*Happy Feet II* did not live up to many people’s expectations. In a movie where “every step counts,” this one fell a little short.